The Secret Laboratory reveals the hidden world of the architects’ sketchbook. Shown together as a selection of local, national and international architects – based in Ireland and Northern Ireland, the exhibition reveals the ideas, observations, thoughts and reflections that are often concealed in a drawer, a coat pocket or in the individual imagination of the architect.

In our digital age the drawing and sketch still have their value as being fundamental to artistic and theoretical practice: to record journeys, everyday objects, project development, conversations and things half seen and imagined. But what ideas do we carry with us in our pockets? How do we use the ‘device’ of the sketchbook?

The architects in this exhibition range from practitioners, to writers, lecturers, critics, illustrators and artists, all working in different areas of architecture and in different ways. Revealed now in the Secret Laboratory for the first time: a series of private reflections made public.

Curator Paul Clarke is based in the School of Architecture and Design at the University of Ulster in Belfast where he is the Course Director for the Master of Architecture and runs the 6th year studio. This exhibition is curated as part of a larger research project by him. The exhibition was designed by Paul Clarke with Niall O’Hare (graduate of the MArch programme) and who also built it in the school workshop.

The Secret Laboratory is a touring exhibition joint funded by PLACE and the University of Ulster
Participating architects in order (left to right)

Grafton Architects
Tom de Paor
Shane O'Toole
Peter Cody
Ciaran Mackel
Tarla MacGabhann
Paul Clarke
Nigel Murray
Seamus Lennon
Nigel Peake
Peter McNie
Michael Doherty
Jane Larmour + Patrick Wheeler
Gerry Cahill
Sheila O’Donnell + John Tuomey

Exhibition at UCD will run till 26th March 2011
Opening times  Mon to Fri 10am-9pm,  Sat 10am-1pm
Opening event will be on the 18th Feb at 5.30pm
A talk by the curator will take place at lunchtime on 18th Feb at 1.30pm